

RESOURCES for AGING
August 29, 2005 (Vol. 2 No. 11)

Welcome to Resources for Aging, the biweekly electronic newsletter of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** in **Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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Issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on a group e-mail list, and printed copies are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Also, this issue and past issues can be accessed online at www.miseniors.net.

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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AGING NETWORK NEWS

Special Workshop Planned for Services to American Indian Elders

A special American Indian Elder Workshop, sponsored by OSA and hosted by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. will be held **September 21** at the Winding Brook Conference Centre, 8240 S. Genuine Road in **Shepherd**.

The workshop is free, and a continental breakfast, lunch, refreshments, and workshop materials will be provided at no cost to registered participants. To obtain a workshop schedule and registration materials, go to the OSA website (www.miseniors.net).

Entitled "Improving Services to American Indian Elders," the workshop will discuss ways to develop available and accessible services to meet the unique needs of American Indian Elders. Its purpose is to overcome barriers; empower American Indian Elders and human service organizations to better serve the American Indian community; develop and expand quality programs that maintain cultural values; and improve access to culturally appropriate services. It also will cover funding opportunities and available federal and state programs.

In particular, representatives of American Indian Tribes in Michigan, off-reservation American Indian organizations in Michigan, and organizations throughout the state that serve American Indian Elders, will benefit by attending.

A limited number of workshop scholarships are available for mileage reimbursement. Send registrations and scholarship requests by **September 13** to the conference host, the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.; c/o American Indian Elder Workshop; 2956 Ashmun Street, Saulte Ste. Marie, 49783; fax to 906/632-1366; or e-mail to steeple@itcmi.org.

For more information, call **Sharon Teeple** at the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. (906/632-6896) or e-mail her at steeple@itcmi.org.

Michigan Leads the Nation with Green Houses

This month, Michigan celebrated second Green House groundbreaking in two months. Entitled "Plant Seeds of Change," it was conducted **August 18** at the Pinecrest Medical Care Facility in **Powers**. The first groundbreaking took place **June 14** at Presbyterian Villages of Michigan in **Redford** where two residences are being built.

Present at both groundbreakings were **Gov. Jennifer Granholm**, OSA Division Director **Cherie Mollison**, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman **Sarah Slocum**, Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Health Systems Director **Walt Wheeler**, and MDCH Certificate of Need Specialist **Joette Laseur**. Special Guest was **William Thomas**, the Green House founder and Eden Alternative Model TM creator.

Green Houses represent an innovative departure from traditional long-term care in nursing homes. They give elder residents a place to receive 24-hour assistance and support to meet long-term care needs, but without long-term care services becoming the focus of their existence. Rather, quality of life is the focus. Providing a positive and enriching life for residents in a small, family setting is the primary goal.

Green Houses are based on the simple idea that senior adults will thrive in a nursing home if it is built to resemble living in one's own house. Therefore, they are smaller, residence-type buildings that reduce the number of people living together, and change the ways in which staff and residents interact. Residents receive skilled level of care services, while at the same time enjoying autonomy, privacy, dignity and choice that focuses on growth and continued life. Also, Green Houses are cost-effective and less expensive to build. Care can be provided at the Medicaid rate.

Each Green House has a large kitchen, dining area and family room at its center. Meals are served family-style in the dining room, and staff members and residents eat together. Every resident has his/her own private room and bath that is decorated to meet personal preferences. The concept of an institutional schedule is abandoned, and residents rather than staff members set the time of their own meal times, bed times, and activities, and how they wish to spend their time each day.

Doctors and nurses provide skilled nursing, therapy and medical care at the Green Houses as needed, but are not the focus of daily life. Direct care staff members receive advanced training, and assist with all levels of care. The result is an environment in which residents, staff, state regulators and management work collaboratively together to make the Green House concept a successful reality.

For more information, call **Wendi Middleton** at OSA (517/373-4071) or e-mail her at middletonw@Michigan.gov. Also, you can go to www.edenalt.com.

Senior Project FRESH Helps 4,500 in 19 Counties

For 2005, OSA expanded Senior Project FRESH from three to 19 counties with help from Michigan State University (MSU) Extension and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). This summer it served approximately 4,500 senior adults.

Senior Project FRESH is part of the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program that is sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide coupons to senior adults to purchase Michigan grown fruits and vegetables by redeeming them at farmer's markets and roadside stands. They cannot be redeemed at grocery stores.

To be eligible to participate, senior adults must be age 60 or older and be at 185% of the poverty rate. Since many of them are at nutritional risk, each participant must complete a nutritional risk questionnaire. Senior Project FRESH volunteers are available to help them complete the questionnaire.

Also, all applicants, whether or not they qualify for coupons, receive a printed list of local congregate meal sites and information about home delivered meals, as well as a nutrition education folder that contains general, as well as county-specific information. In addition, MSU Extension makes counseling and nutrition education classes available to them.

This year, all of the coupons must be used by **October 31**, or returned unused to OSA. Unused coupons can still be returned to OSA and reallocated to Senior Project FRESH programs in other parts of the state.

If your group or agency wishes to start Senior Project FRESH in your county for 2006, or for more information, call **Sherri King** at OSA (517/373-4092) or e-mail her at kings1@michigan.gov.

OSA Joins with Others to Provide Adult Abuse Training

Vulnerable adult abuse is harming, or creating the serious risk of harm, for older adults and those with physical or mental disabilities. The abuse can be neglect, or physical, emotional, psychological, sexual or financial abuse.

According to the Michigan State Police, it is estimated that each year 80,000 Michigan citizens, age 60 or older, are victims of elder abuse, and these crimes often go unreported and unpunished. As the aging population increases, Michigan could be faced with over 100,000 cases of elder abuse by 2010.

Now Michigan law enforcement officers will be better equipped to handle cases of abuse and sexual assault against vulnerable senior adults and individuals with disabilities, thanks to training sessions offered by the State Police in conjunction with OSA, the Wayne State University (WSU) Development Disabilities Institute, and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Regional training sessions, funded by a federal grant from the Office of Justice Programs of the US Department of Justice, are being offered August through November to law enforcement officers, prosecutors and advocates.

Entitled "Understanding and Investigating Vulnerable Adult Abuse and Neglect: The Role of Law Enforcement," they cover the general characteristics of aging, different kinds of disabilities, and special interviewing skills (to obtain accurate information from vulnerable adults). They also discuss how to identify abuse by primary caregivers, how to remove a victim from a home, and how to identify community partners and referral services. In addition, they help law enforcement officers to understand the unique circumstances surrounding persons with physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities.

The first training session was held last week in **Lansing**. The other three will be held **September 27** at the Holiday Inn Livonia in **Livonia**; **October 26** at The Otsego Club in **Gaylord**; and **November 30** at the Valley Plaza Resort in **Midland**.

Law enforcement agencies unable to send anyone to attend one of the training sessions will receive a resource kit with reference information about vulnerable adult abuse, and a training video.

For more information, call **Lynne McCollum** at OSA (517/373-7692) or e-mail her at weinsteinl@michigan.gov, or call Sgt. **Michele Hernandez** at the Prevention Services Section of the State Police (517/336-6603) or e-mail her at hernanm@michigan.gov.

OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Kinship Informational Fair

Entitled "It's a Family Affair" and sponsored by OSA and the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center at the MSU School of Social Work for kinship families (grandparents raising grandchildren, aunts and uncles raising a niece or nephew, siblings raising other siblings, or a friend helping to raise another friend's child), it will be held **September 10** at Patriarche Park in **East Lansing**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 517/355-9600 or toll-free 800/535-1218.

OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors

The next meeting will be held 1:30 p.m. **September 13** in Room 3B above OSA at 7109 W. Saginaw Highway in Lansing. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or

e-mail her at bowlinj1@michigan.gov, or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at ablan@iserv.net.

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)

The next meeting will be held 10:00 a.m. **September 16** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail her at albrechtc@michigan.gov.

Improving Services to American Indian Elders

This special workshop, sponsored by OSA and hosted by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. will be held **September 21** at the Winding Brook Conference Centre in **Shepherd** to discuss how services can be made more available and accessible to meet the unique needs of American Indian Elders. For more information, call **Sharon Teeple** at the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc (906/632-6896) or e-mail her at steeples@itcmi.org. Also, see the AGING NETWORK NEWS section of this issue (above).

State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)

The next meeting will be held 9:30 a.m. **October 20** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at steiners@michigan.gov.

EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

Balance and Falls Prevention, a free seminar sponsored by the Senior Wellness Project of the City of Portage Senior Citizen Services **September 2** at the Portage Senior Center in **Portage**. For more information, call 269/329-4555 or e-mail to senior@portagemi.com.

Community Living Expo, a free event entitled "Meeting the Needs of the Care Giving Community" and sponsored by the Genesee County Community Living Consortium to benefit people who provide or receive care for an elder, disabled family member or friend **September 8** at the Holiday Inn Gateway in **Flint**. For more information, call 810/742-1800 or e-mail to kathyf@disnetwork.org.

Housing the Spirit: Building Social Service Programs for Aging Adults, an awards ceremony sponsored by the Housing Bureau for Seniors **September 8** at The Turner Senior Resource Center in **Ann Arbor**. For more information, call 734/998-9339.

Perceived Racism, Coping and Health Among African American Urban Elders, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **September 13** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Michigan Story Festival, sponsored by Central Michigan University (CMU) and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, in conjunction with the Michigan Humanities Council, to hear storytellers **September 15** at the Isabella Senior Center in **Mt. Pleasant**. For more information, go to www.michiganstoryfestival.org or call 989/774-3342.

Governing Nonprofits for Success: Paradigm Shifts in the Nonprofit World, sponsored by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership for Board Members and Executives of Nonprofit Agencies **September 16** at the Loosemore Auditorium of Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Pew Campus DeVos Center in **Grand Rapids**. For more

information call 616/331-7232.

MGA Board of Directors, a meeting conducted by the Michigan Guardianship Association (MGA) **September 16** in the Conference Room at OSA in **Lansing**. For more information, call 586/263-8687 or e-mail to edlmogi@aol.com.

Making the News – Media Training, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **September 20** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

New Developments in Dementia Care, an open house and presentation sponsored by The Dorothy & Peter Brown Jewish Community Adult Day Care Program **September 20** in **West Bloomfield**. For more information, call 248/661-6390 or e-mail to bchess@jhas.org.

Advanced Techniques in Dementia Care, a 2005 Professional Series training sponsored by the Gerontology Network and Catholic Social Services, Inc., **September 22** at the Waterfront Conference Center in **Traverse City**. For more information, call 231/929-7070, ext. 11.

Choosing and Using Your Donor Management System, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and co-sponsored by the Capital Region Community Foundation and Capital Area United Way **September 22** at the MNA in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.mnaonline.org or call toll-free 888/242-7075.

Senior Advocacy Network (SAN), a public meeting entitled “Improving Long Term Care in Michigan” and sponsored by Area Agency on Aging-1B (AAA-1B) **September 26** at AAA-1B in **Southfield**. For more information, call 248/262-1282.

Planned Giving: Getting the Proper Start, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and co-sponsored by the Capital Region Community Foundation and Capital Area United Way **September 27** at the University of Michigan (U of M) Dearborn in **Dearborn**. For more information or to register, go to www.mnaonline.org or call toll-free 888/242-7075.

Health Literacy, Online Resources and Older Adults, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **September 27** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Michigan Story Festival, sponsored by Central Michigan University (CMU) and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, in conjunction with the Michigan Humanities Council, to hear storytellers **September 29** at the Isabella Senior Center in **Mt. Pleasant**. For more information, go to www.michiganstoryfestival.org or call 989/774-3342.

Mobility Loss, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **October 4** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Excel 2000 – Level I, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and co-sponsored by the Capital Region Community Foundation and Capital Area United Way **October 6** at the New Horizon Center in **East Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.mnaonline.org or call toll-free 888/242-7075.

UP Nonprofit Conference, entitled “Today’s Challenges – Practical Approaches” and sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) **October 7** at the Ramada Inn in **Marquette**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400.

3rd Annual Assuring Competencies and Compliance in End of Life Care: Palliative Care and Advanced Disease Management, a conference for physicians and nurse practitioners sponsored by Hospice of Michigan, the Maggie Allesee Center, and the Wayne State University (WSU) School of Medicine **October 7-8** at the Bay Harbor Resort and Marina in **Bay Harbor**. For more information, call 313/578-5022 or e-mail to pbullard@hom.org.

Eighth Interdisciplinary Conference on Law and Aging, entitled “Juggling with One Ball” and sponsored by The Elder Law and Advocacy Section of the State Bar of Michigan **October 7-9** at the Treetops Resort in **Gaylord**. For more information, call **Brad Geller** at OSA (517/373-3697) or e-mail him at gellerb@michigan.gov.

Olfactory Sensitivity and Cognitive Impairment in the Elderly, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **October 14** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.ioq.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Preparing for Successful Grant Proposals, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and co-sponsored by the Capital Region Community Foundation and Capital Area United Way **October 18-19** at the University of Michigan (U of M) Dearborn in **Dearborn**. For more information or to register, go to www.mnaonline.org or call toll-free 888/242-7075.

Father Knows Best (Unless I Know Better), a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **October 20** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.ioq.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Keeping Your Computer Running Smoothly – The Essentials, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and co-sponsored by the Capital Region Community Foundation and Capital Area United Way **October 20** at the MNA in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.mnaonline.org or call toll-free 888/242-7075.

Dirty Little Secrets About Publishing, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **October 25** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.ioq.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

The Nonprofit Organization Mirror, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and co-sponsored by the Capital Region Community Foundation and Capital Area United Way **October 27** at the MNA in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.mnaonline.org or call toll-free 888/242-7075.

An Investigation of the Relationships Between Age and Paper Hue Intensity with Reading Speed, Reading Ability and Gender, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **November 1** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.ioq.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Call for Presentations: 7th Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference, entitled “Learning, Laughing and Caring” and sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) March 29, 2006 to showcase the creative interests (crafts, memoirs and music) of non-professional Michigan senior adults age 55 and older. The deadline for submitting entries is **November 1**. For more information, call 313/577-2297 or e-mail to j.mendez@wayne.edu.

New Supports in Old Europe: Healthy Aging and Intellectual Disability, a Fall 2005

Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **November 15** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

Call for Sessions: 2005 NGA Annual Conference, sponsored by the National Guardianship Association November 6-9 at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel in **Cleveland, OH**. The deadline for submitting session proposals is **September 2**. For more information, call 520/881-6561.

7th Annual Assisted Living Conference, sponsored by the Michigan Assisted Living Association (MALA) and the Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (MAHSA) **September 7** at the Lansing Radisson Hotel in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.miassistedliving.org or call toll-free 800/482-0118.

15th Annual Senior Advisory Council Conference and 2005 Claude Pepper Awards, entitled "Staying Healthy through Engagement" and sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) for senior adults and service providers **September 9** at the Soaring Eagle Resort, Casino and Conference Center in **Mt. Pleasant**. For more information, call toll-free 800/733-BLUE (2583).

6th Annual Michigan Substance Abuse Conference, sponsored by the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards (MACMHB) **September 15-16** at Cobo Hall in **Detroit**. For more information, call 517/374-6848.

Annual Convention & Exhibit Show 2005, entitled "Blueprints for the Future – Tools for Change" and sponsored by the Health Care Association of Michigan and the Michigan Center for Assisted Living **September 18-21** at the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in **Mt. Pleasant**. For more information, call 517/627-1561.

7th Annual MDEN Conference, entitled "Non-Alzheimer's Dementias: Behaviors and Interventions," and sponsored by the Michigan Dementia Education Network (MDEN) and the Alzheimer's Education & Research Program at Eastern Michigan University (EMU) **September 20-21** at the McMullan Center at **Higgins Lake**. For more information, call 734/487-8578 or e-mail to lisa.gray@emich.edu.

Nonprofit Day 2005, a conference entitled "Change is Coming...Are You Ready?" sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and its Michigan Public Policy Initiative (MPPI) **September 21** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call toll-free 888/242-7075.

MCRR Fall Conference, sponsored by the Michigan Committee on Refugee Resettlement (MCRR) and the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA), featuring a panel on the needs of older refugees, **September 23** at the Holiday Inn South Conference Center in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/492-2400 or e-mail to aking@mnaonline.org.

CMF 33rd Annual Conference, sponsored by the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) **October 10-12** at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in **Acme Township**, next to Traverse City. For more information, go to www.cmif.org or call 616/842-7080.

Detroit Trauma Symposium, sponsored by Detroit Receiving Hospital and the Detroit Medical Center at the Dearborn Inn in **Dearborn**. For more information, go to www.drhuhc.org or call 313/577-5005.

Case Management Across the Lifespan, a conference for health care professionals interested or engaged in case management sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Nursing and the MSU School of Social Work, **November 17** at the MSU Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center. For more information, go to www.nursing.msu.edu/continuingeducation.asp or call toll-free 800/605-6424, option 6.

MICHIGAN NONPROFIT TRAINING EVENTS

Grantsmanship Training Program, sponsored by the Grantsmanship Center (TGCI) to offer grant-related training and information **September 12-16** at the Judson Center in **Royal Oak**. For more information, go to www.tgci.com or call toll-free 800/421-9512.

Dizziness and Balance Dysfunction in the Geriatric Client, a training sponsored by the Injury and Violence Prevention Section of the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) and co-sponsored by Genesys Health System and Generation Care of Muskegon **September 13** at the Genesys Conference and Banquet Center in **Grand Blanc**. For more information, go to www.genesys.org, call 517/663-5147, or e-mail to dmsdiane@concentric.net.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), a mini in-service entitled "Montessori-based Activity Programs for Residents with Dementia" and sponsored by Citizens for Better Care (CBC) Northwest Michigan **September 13** at the Diocese of Gaylord in **Gaylord**. For more information, call 231/947-2504 or toll-free 866/485-9393.

Advanced Techniques in Dementia Care, a 2005 Professional Series training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **September 16** at the Above & Beyond Oakridge Golf Club in **Norton Shores**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call toll-free 800/730-6135.

Professional Development Seminar, sponsored by the Association of Government Accounts Lansing Chapter **September 20** at the Radisson Hotel Lansing in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.lansing-aga.org/events or call 517/336-6485.

Geriatric Rehabilitation: Strategies for a Changing Environment, a training sponsored by Agility Health and the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan **September 24** at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/353-7828.

Dealing with Grief & Loss/Working with Families of Older Adults a 2005 Professional Series training sponsored by the Gerontology Network **September 26** at the Osceola State Bank in **Baldwin**. For more information, go to www.gerontologynetwork.org or call toll-free 800/730-6135.

Grantsmanship Training Program, sponsored by the Grantsmanship Center (TGCI) to offer grant-related training and information **September 26-30** at the Lake Superior Community Partnership & Northern Area Health Education Center in **Marquette**. For more information, go to www.tgci.com or call toll-free 800/421-9512.

Planned Giving: Getting the Proper Start, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association in partnership with the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, and conducted by the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy Fund Raising School **September 27-29** at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in **Dearborn**. For more information, call 517/492-2410 or toll-free 888/242-7075, or go to www.mnaonline.org.

The Art of Jewish Caregiving, a seminar sponsored by Jewish Home and Aging Services

September 28 at the Jewish Home and Aging Services in **West Bloomfield**. For more information, call 248/661-2999, ext. 348.

Grants.Gov Workshop, sponsored by the Capital Area District Library and conducted by an experienced trainer from the Grants.Gov team for individuals, nonprofit organizations and governmental units **September 18** at the Capital Area District Library in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/334-1523.

AARP Driver Safety Program, a training designed specifically for drivers age 50 and older and sponsored by AARP and the Western Upper Peninsula (UP) Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) **September 29-30** at the Western UP District Health Department in **Hancock**. For more information, call 906/482-7382.

Best Practices of Northern Michigan Committee (BPNM), entitled “Mini in-service: Services for Persons with Visual Impairments in long-term care (LTC) Settings” and sponsored by Citizens for Better Care (CBC) Northwest Michigan **October 4** at the Diocese of Gaylord in **Gaylord**. For more information, call toll-free 866/485-9393 or 231/947-2504.

Mature Driver Workshop, a training sponsored by the Macomb County Department of Senior Services **October 6** at the Freedom Hill County Park in **Sterling Heights**. For more information, call 586/469-6307 or e-mail to cathy.wilson@macombcountymi.gov.

Adult Guardianship/Family Caregiver Mediation Training, sponsored by the Center for Social Gerontology and PeaceTalks Mediation Services **October 17-19** at the Holiday Inn North Campus in **Ann Arbor**. For more information, go to www.tcsq.org or call 734/665-1126.

Preparing Successful Grant Proposals, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association in partnership with the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, and conducted by the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy Fund Raising School **October 18-19** at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in **Dearborn**. For more information, call toll-free 888/242-7075 or 517/492-2410, or go to www.mnaonline.org.

Accommodating Vision and Hearing Loss in Older Adults, a training sponsored by the Health and Human Services Department at Lansing Community College (LCC) **October 21** at LCC in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

Developing a Person-Centered Approach to Care, a training sponsored by the Health and Human Services Department at Lansing Community College (LCC) **October 21** at LCC in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

Dementia: Concepts and Causes, a training sponsored by the Health and Human Services Department at Lansing Community College (LCC) **November 4** at LCC in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

Building the Annual Fund, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association in partnership with the Dorothy A. Center Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, and conducted by the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy Fund Raising School **November 9-10** at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in **Dearborn**. For more information, call toll-free 888/242-7075 or 517/492-2410, or go to www.mnaonline.org.

Grantsmanship Training Program, sponsored by the Grantsmanship Center (TGCI) to offer grant-related training and information **November 14-18** at Lansing Community College in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.tgci.com or call toll-free 800/421-9512.

MICHIGAN FOR-PROFIT TRAINING EVENTS

Advanced Troubleshooting, Maintaining & Upgrading PCs, a training sponsored by Compumaster (a Microsoft certified partner) to learn how to diagnose and fix hardware and software problems **October 11-12** at the Farmington Hills Hotel in **Farmington Hills**; **October 11-12** at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in **Kalamazoo**; and **October 13-14** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.compumaster.net or call 800/867-4340.

Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior, a training for managers and supervisors sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **October 18** at the Park Place Hotel in **Traverse City**; **October 19** at the Four Points Hotel Saginaw in **Saginaw**; **October 31** at The Radisson East Hotel in **Grand Rapids**; **November 1** at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center in **Lansing**; **November 2** at the Hilton Detroit/Troy in **Troy**; **November 3** at the Courtyard by Marriott in **Flint**; **November 4** at the Best Western Executive Plaza in **Ann Arbor**; **November 18** at the Commonwealth Commerce Center in **Jackson**; and **December 2** at the Comfort Inn in **Farmington Hills**. For more information or to enroll, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Excelling as a First-Time Manager or Supervisor, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **October 31** at the Four Points Hotel Saginaw in **Saginaw**; **November 1** at the Radisson Riverfront in **Grand Rapids**; **December 5** at the Comfort Suites of Marquette in **Marquette**; **December 6** at the Waterfront Inn & Conference Center in **Traverse City**; **December 7** at The Radisson East Hotel in **Grand Rapids**; and **December 8** at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center in **Flint**. For more information or to enroll, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

OTHER MICHIGAN EVENTS/MEETINGS

MADSA Chapter II Quarterly Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan Association of Adult Day Services Association (MADSA) **September 14** at Area Agency on Aging 1-B in Southfield. For more information, call toll-free 877/362-2322 or e-mail to madsa@earthlink.com.

Mexican Festival, sponsored by the LaAmistad Seniors Program of the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency **September 15** at the Ruth Peterson Community Center in **Pontiac**. For more information, call 248/858-2307 or e-mail to tamarao@olhsa.org

19th Annual Symposium on Geriatric Medicine, entitled "Finding the Balance: Risk vs Benefit in Treating Geriatric Illness" and sponsored by the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan **September 23** at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/353-7828.

Ninth Annual Retreat, sponsored by the Michigan Adult Day Services Association (MADSA) **September 28-30** at the McMullen Conference Center at **Higgins Lake** near **Roscommon**. For more information, call toll-free 877/362-2322 or e-mail to madsa@earthlink.net.

2005 Volunteer Symposium, entitled "Volunteers Rock Around the Clock," and sponsored by the Michigan Hospice & Palliative Care Organization (MHPCO) **October 14-16** at the Valley Plaza Resort Hotel and Convention Center in **Midland**. For more information, call 517/886-6667 or e-mail to nbrocieus@mihospice.org

General MADSA Membership Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan Association of Adult Day Services Association (MADSA) **October 21** at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce in **Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 877/362-2322 or e-mail to madsa@earthlink.com.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

Fourth International Palliative Care in the 21st Century Conference, sponsored by Columbia University, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and The Professional Education Center of the Jewish Home **September 8** at Columbia University in **New York, NY**. For more information, call 212/870-4762 or e-mail to ngribaa@jhha.org.

Vulnerable Adults & the Criminal Justice System: Beyond the Basics, a conference sponsored by the Oregon Health Care Association, AARP Oregon, the Oregon Department of Human Services, and the Oregon Department of Justice **September 13-15** at the Hilton Eugene & Conference Center in **Eugene, OR**. For more information, call 503/846-2773 or e-mail to joyce_demonnin@co.washington.or.us.

13th International Conference, entitled "The Intergenerational Current Across the Life Span and Around the Globe" and sponsored by Generations United **September 13-17** at the Washington Marriott in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.gu.org or call 202/289-3979.

10th Annual Disease Management Congress, held in conjunction with the **2005 International Disease Management Alliance Summit** and sponsored by the Beam Institute and the Institute for International Research **September 21-23** at the Omni Orlando Champions Gate Resort in **Orlando, FL**. For more information, go to www.diseasemanagementcongress.com or call toll-free 888/670-8200.

Expo 2005: International Public Transportation Expo, sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association **September 26-28** at the Dallas Convention Center in **Dallas, TX**. For more information, go to www.apta.com/expo2005 or call toll-free 800/628-5188

World Ageing & Generations Congress 2005, sponsored by the VIVA 50-Plus - Swiss Association for Demographics and Inter-Generational Issues **September 29-October 1** at the University of St. Gallen in **St. Gallen, Switzerland**. For more information, go to www.viva50plus.org, call +41(071) 242 79 78, or e-mail to info@viva50plus.org.

16th Annual NAPSA Conference, sponsored by the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) **October 12-14** at the Salt Lake City Marriott City Center in **Salt Lake City, UT**. For more information, call 720/565-0906 or e-mail to anne.kincaid@apsnetwork.org.

30th Anniversary Annual Meeting, a conference entitled "Working Together for Quality Long-Term Care" and sponsored by the National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCNHR) **October 16-19** at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel in **Arlington, VA**. For more information, go to www.nursinghomeaction.org or call 202/332-2275.

AARC Annual Training Conference, sponsored by the Alabama Association of Regional (Aging) Councils **October 16-19** at the Perdido Beach Resort in **Orange Beach, AL**. For more information, go to www.alarc.org.

Workplace Diversity: New Challenges New Opportunities, a conference sponsored by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) to provide diversity-related resources and services **October 24-26** Caesars Palace in **Las Vegas, NV**. For more information, go to www.shrm.org/conferences/diversity or call toll-free 800/283-7476.

The GIA 2005 Annual Conference, entitled "Aging with Attitude: Transforming our Communities and Our Nation" and sponsored by Grantmakers in Aging (GIA) **October 26-28** at

the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in **Baltimore, MD**. For more information, go to www.qiaging.org or call 937/435-3156.

NGA 18th Annual Conference, sponsored by the National Guardianship Association (NGA) **November 6-9** at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel in **Cleveland, OH**. For more information, go to www.guardianship.org or call 520/881-6561, ext. 103.

27th Annual Professional Development Institute & Trade Show, entitled "The Business of Aging: Getting Ahead of the Curve" and sponsored by Partnerships for Aging (a partnership between the Southwest Society on Aging and the Mid-America Congress on Aging) **November 17-19** at the Indianapolis Westin Hotel Downtown in **Indianapolis, IN**. For more information, go to www.partnershipsforaging.org or call 405/744-7511.

2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA), entitled "The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action" and conducted by the Administration on Aging (AoA) **December 11-14** in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.whcoa.gov.

2006 Joint Conference, entitled "Strengthening Families, Communities and Ourselves" and co-sponsored by the National Council on the Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) **March 16-19, 2006** at the Hilton Anaheim and the Anaheim Marriott in **Anaheim, CA**. For more information, go to www.asaging.org.

FEDERAL REGISTER (August 15-26)

The Federal Register is the daily publication of the National Archives and Records Administration. It outlines rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive Orders and other Presidential documents.

To access the Federal Register online, go to the GPO Access homepage at www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html. Up will come "Federal Register: Browse." Also "Current Issue" or "Back Issues." For "Back issues," select the year and click on "Go." For current year issues, select "2005" and click on "GO." Then click on the date of the issue you want to access.

CMS Proposes Payment Rates for Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities

See the Federal Register, dated **August 15** (Vol. 70, No. 156). Go to "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services" and see "Rules, Medicare." This final rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **October 1**, updates the prospective payment rates for inpatient rehabilitation facilities for the 2006 fiscal year, as required by the Social Security Act. In addition, it implements new policies and changes in existing policies regarding the prospective payment system. For more information, call 410/786-1235.

CMS Proposes to Increase Immunization Rates for LTC Facilities

See the Federal Register, dated **August 15** (Vol. 70, No. 156). Go the "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services" and see "Proposed Rules, Medicare & Medicaid." This proposed rule is to increase immunization rates in Medicare and Medicaid for participating long-term care (LTC) facilities by requiring them to offer each resident immunization against influenza annually, as well as lifetime immunization against pneumococcal disease. It is intended to increase the number of senior adults receiving influenza and pneumococcal immunization, and decrease the morbidity and mortality rate from influenza and pneumococcal diseases. Public comment may be submitted electronically, by regular mail, by overnight mail, or by hand or courier, and must be received by **August 30**. For more information, call 410/786-5646.

AoA Announces Next Meeting of the WHCoA Policy Committee

See the Federal Register, dated **August 24** (Vol. 70, No. 163). Go to "Aging Administration" and see "Notices, Meetings." This notice from the Administration on Aging (AoA) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the seventh White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) Policy Committee meeting to continue discussions and planning for the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA). It is open to the public and will be held **September 20** in the Atrium Ballroom of the Washington Court Hotel in **Washington, DC**. For more information, call 301/443-2887.

IHS Announces Grant to National Council of Urban Indian Health

See the Federal Register, dated **August 25** (Vol. 70, No. 164). Go to "Indian Health Service" and see "Notices, Grant and cooperative agreement awards." This notice from the Indian Health Service (IHS) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the award of a three-year grant, starting **September 1**, to the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) for a demonstration project for urban American Indian health care education, consultation, health care data dissemination, training and technical assistance to determine the unmet health care needs of urban American Indians, and to assist the HHS Secretary to assess the health status and health care of urban American Indians. For more information, call 301/443-4680.

CMS Sets Conditions for Payment of Power Mobility Devices

See the Federal Register, dated **August 26** (Vol. 70, No. 165). Go to "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services" and see "Rules, Medicare: Power mobility devices." This interim final rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) conforms CMS regulations to the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act by defining the term power mobility devices (PMDs) as power wheelchairs and power operated vehicles (POVs or scooters). It also sets forth revised conditions for Medicare payment of PMDs, and defines who may prescribe PMDs. Public comment must be received by **November 25**. For more information, call 410/786-0189.

LEGISLATION

The following bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. The list does not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor does it indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority. All of this information is current, as of the date of this issue. But it is subject to change at any time through legislative action.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to www.michiganlegislature.org (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under "Legislative Bill Search." Then click on "Go!" and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a "PDF" or "TXT" box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website (www.michiganlegislature.org) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions.

If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, please contact your state legislator. Also, you may e-mail your comments to **OSA Director Sharon Gire** at

osadirector@michigan.gov, or mail them to her at OSA (P.O. Box 30676 in Lansing, 48909-8176).

New House Bills (Since the Last Issue)

House Bill (HB) 5081 (2005)

Law; contracts; use of fingerprint as a legal signature; allow for a person who is unable to sign. Amends RS 1 of 1846 (MCL 8.3q). Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township). Referred to the House Committee on Government Relations 8-10-05

House Bill (HB) 5084 (2005)

Elections; absent voters; delivery and acceptance of absent voter ballots regardless of insufficient postage; require. Amends Public Act (PA) 116 of 1954. Sponsored by **Rep. LaMar Lemmons III** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one. Referred to the House Committee on House Oversight, Elections, and Ethics 8-10-05.

House Bill (HB) 5103 (2005)

Health; pharmaceuticals; partial dispensing of schedule 2 controlled substances in certain circumstances; allow under certain circumstances (also in long-term care facilities). Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale). Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 8-24-05.

House Bill (HB) 5105 (2005)

Crimes; gambling; exemption for card playing at certain senior citizen facilities; expand. Amends Public Act (PA) 328 of 1931. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale). Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary (8-24-05).

New Senate Bills (Since the Last Issue)

Bills that are Moving (Through August 26)

House Bill (HB) 4037 (2005)

This bill would require the establishment of a toll-free telephone number providing consumers with information on Michigan prescription drug programs. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Paul Condino** (D-Southfield) and co-sponsored by two others, this bill is tie-barred to HB 4559 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 1-27-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 5-2-05 and 5-16-05. House substitute bill adopted 5-17-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 6-29-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 6-30-05.

House Bill (HB) 4436 (2005)

Appropriations; zero budget; appropriations, supplemental (including 18,615,700 for Community Health and 32,368,600 for Human Services). Creates appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt). Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 3-2-05. Reported with recommendation with House substitute bill 7-27-05. Referred to second reading 7-27-05.

House Bill (HB) 4559 (2005)

This bill would establish a website to educate consumers about the price of prescription drugs. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Roger Kahn** (R-Saginaw) and co-sponsored by two others, this bill is tie-barred to HB 4037 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 3-24-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 5-2-05 and 5-16-05. House substitute bill adopted 5-

17-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 5-18-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 5-19-05.

House Bill (HB) 4626 (2005)

Insurance; health; liability for certain harm to enrollee; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Paul Condino** (D-Southfield) and co-sponsored by 12 others. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 4-19-05. Reported with recommendation with House substitute bill 6-21-05. Referred to second reading 6-21-05.

House Bill (HB) 4831 (2005)

Appropriations; other; zero budget appropriations bill; provide for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt). Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 5-25-05. House substitute bill adopted and amended 6-9-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 6-9-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 6-14-05. Discharge Committee approved 6-23-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in 6-23-05. Passed by the Senate 6-23-05. Senate substitute bill nonconcurred in by the House 6-28-05. House conferees named: Reps. **Scott Hummel**, **John Pastor** and **Gretchen Whitmer**.

House Bill (HB) 4996 (2005)

Under provisions of the Public Health Code, dental hygienists, under the supervision of a dentist, can provide dental hygiene services to patients who have not first been examined by a dentist as part of a program for "dentally underserved" patients conducted by a local, state, or federal grantee health agency. This bill would amend the Public Health Code to revise the criteria for designation as a grantee health agency to include, for example, a public or nonprofit entity, or a school or nursing home that administers a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 36 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 6-23-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 6-27-05. Reported with recommendation without amendments 6-28-05. Referred to second reading 6-28-05.

House Bill (HB) 5002 (2005)

Health facilities; hospitals; quality assurance assessment; extend sunset and increase hospital appropriation. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Alma Smith** (D-Ypsilanti) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-23-05. Reported with recommendation without amendment(s) 6-28-05. Referred to second reading 6-28-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 43 (2005)

This bill would amend the Income Tax Act to allow a physician with a medical care practice in a designated health professional shortage area to claim a \$2,500 income tax credit for up to three consecutive years beginning after December 31, 2005, or claim the credit for any three years within a five year period if he or she interrupted his or her practice for a continuing education program or a sabbatical. It also would reduce the amount of the credit for a physician with a part-time practice. This credit would be for a physician who provides primary care to patients, including indigent patients, as part of his or her full-time or part-time medical care services in a designated health professional shortage area. Sponsored by **Sen. Samuel Thomas III** (D-Detroit). Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 1-25-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 6-8-05 and 6-15-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill (6-14-05).

Senate Bill (SB) 146 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to delete a provision authorizing a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions on a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Virg Bernero** (D-Lansing) and co-

sponsored by 14 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 2-2-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 2-8-05, 2-9-05 and 2-14-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole 2-10-05. Passed by the Senate 2-16-05. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 2-16-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 267 (2005)

Appropriations; community health; department of community health; provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 3-2-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 6-6-05, 6-9-05 and 6-22-05. Reported by the Senate Committee on the Whole favorably with Senate substitute bill and amendments. Senate substitute bill concurred in as amended 6-14-05. Amendments defeated 6-14-05. Passed by the Senate 6-14-05. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-16-05. House substitute bill adopted 6-28-05. Passed by the House 6-28-05. Returned to the Senate 6-28-05. House substitute bill nonconcurred in by the Senate 6-30-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 271 (2005)

Appropriations; family independence agency (now the department of human services); provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates appropriations act. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 3-2-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 5-5-05, 6-10-05 and 6-17-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in 6-15-05. Amendments defeated 6-15-05. Amendments adopted 6-15-05. Passed by the Senate 6-15-04. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-16-05. House substitute bill adopted 6-28-05. Passed the House 6-28-05. Returned to the Senate 6-28-05. House substitute bill nonconcurred in by the Senate 6-30-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 334 (2005)

This bill would amend the Customer Choice and Electricity Reliability Act (the act) to create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Program within the Public Service Commission (PSC); require the PSC to implement a low income energy assistance and efficiency factor that would be a nonbypassable surcharge payable by every customer receiving a distribution service from a natural gas or electric utility with rates regulated by the PSC; create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Fund within the State Treasury, and require money collected through the surcharge to be deposited into the fund; allow the PSC, in consultation with the Attorney General, to authorize the State Treasurer to make disbursements from the fund through a grant process to any entity that provided assistance to utility customers; and repeal Section 6c of the act which allows the PSC to approve energy conservation programs for residential customers, and fund those programs through general utility rates. Amends Public Act (PA) 3 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Bruce Patterson** (R-Canton) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy 3-22-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 4-27-05, 5-24-05 and 5-25-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 5-24-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 348 (2005)

The General Property Tax Act requires local tax collecting units that collect a summer property tax to defer the collection, at the taxpayer's request, until the following February 15 for the principal residence of taxpayers with a household income of \$35,000 or less. To be eligible for the deferment, a taxpayer must be totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, quadriplegic, or an eligible serviceperson or an eligible veteran (or be the widow or widower of such a person). This bill would eliminate the income requirement for these taxpayers, except for taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age at the time of death. For those taxpayers, the income threshold would increase to \$37,500 for the 2006 tax year and to \$40,000 for the 2007 tax year and beyond. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Sen. Nancy Cassis** (R-Novi) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Senate Fiscal Analyses 4-26-05 and 5-3-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in 5-3-05. Amendments adopted 5-4-05. Passed the Senate 5-4-05. Referred to the House Committee

on Tax Policy 5-4-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 6-29-05. House substitute bill adopted 6-30-05. Passed the House 6-30-05. Returned to the Senate 6-30-05.

2005 Public Acts

House Bill (HB) 4188 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 24 of 2005

This bill amends the General Property Tax Act to increase from \$25,000 to \$35,000 the maximum household income of a taxpayer 62 years old, or older, who may defer the collection of summer property taxes, and to remove the income limit for other taxpayers eligible for the summer tax collection deferral. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Tory Rocca** (R-Sterling Heights) and co-sponsored by 72 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-23-05 and assigned Public Act (PA) 24 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4434 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 72 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to provide that pharmacies that shared a real-time, online database or other equivalent means of communication, or pharmacies that transferred prescriptions pursuant to a written contract for centralized prescription processing services, would not have to follow the procedure established in the Code to refill a copy of a prescription from another pharmacy. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by 82 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-19-05 and assigned Public Act (PA) 72 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Senate Bill (SB) 352 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 73 (2005)

This bill amends the Public Health Code to allow a pharmacy to perform centralized prescription processing services or outsource those services to another pharmacy if certain conditions are met. It amends Public Act 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Bill Hardiman** (R-Kentwood) and co-sponsored by 23 others, this bill was tie-barred to HB 4434. It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-19-05 and assigned Public Act (PA) 73 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4405 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 85 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to eliminate the authority of a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions against a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gretchen Whitmer** (D-East Lansing) and co-sponsored by 63 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-20-05 and assigned Public Act (PA) 85 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

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FOUNDATIONS

MetLife Foundation and ASA to Present 2005 Mind Alert Awards

Again this year, the MetLife Foundation and the American Society on Aging (ASA) will present three MidAlert Awards to recognize innovations in mental fitness programming for older adults, and promote the translation of these innovations into practice to enhance cognitive functions in later life.

Each of the three winners also will receive a \$1,500 award. The awards will be presented at the 2006 Joint Conference of The National Council on the Aging (NCoA) and the ASA that will be held **March 16-19** at the Hilton Anaheim and the Anaheim Marriott in **Anaheim, CA**. Winners will have the opportunity to present at the Joint Conference, and winning articles will be

published in ASA's publications and on the ASA website.

Programs and products or tools that promote cognitive function in later life are eligible. Nominees do not have to be members of ASA or NCoA. However, the intent is that the award-winners be broad and inclusive. They will be judged on innovation, basis in research, demonstration of effectiveness, diversity and potential for replication.

One MindAlert award will be made to a program within each of the following three categories: (1) lifelong learning/third age educational programs; (2) programs that specifically focus on enhancing mental fitness for older adults; and (3) programs specifically designed to enhance mental fitness for cognitively-impaired older adults.

Examples of settings include senior centers, lifelong learning and adult education programs, colleges and universities, recreational programs, residences for senior adults such as nursing homes and retirement and assisted living facilities, and hospitals, clinics and home health agencies. Examples of products or tools include television or radio programs, curricula, websites, books, videos, games and museum exhibits.

The deadline for submissions is **September 16**. For more information, go to www.asaging.org/mindalert or call 415/974-9613.

OTHER RESOURCES

PSC Schedules Consumer Forums to Discuss High Gas Prices

According to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) of the Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG), it is estimated that residential gas customers could see average monthly bill increases this winter (November-March) that will range from \$18.00-37.00/month more than last winter, assuming normal weather conditions.

That is one reason why Michigan citizens are invited to attend seven "Consumer Forums," sponsored by the MPSC in every part of the state, to learn about changes occurring in the electric, natural gas, and telephone industries. A focus of this year's forums will be a discussion on the increase of wholesale natural gas prices, and how the increase will impact monthly bills for senior adults and others.

Each forum will provide the latest information on electric and natural gas rates for the winter, what opportunities citizens have to select an alternative electric or natural gas provider, and the status of local and long-distance telephone service. One of the MPSC's three Commissioners, **Chairman Peter Lark, Laura Chappelle or Monica Martinez** will be available at each forum to discuss these issues, answer questions, and listen to citizen comments and concerns.

The Consumer Forums will be conducted 6:00 p.m. **September 8** at the Greater Grace Temple in **Detroit**; 6:00 p.m. **September 13** at the City Hall Council Chambers in **Escanaba**; 6:00 p.m. **September 14** at the Fletcher Public Library in **Alpena**; 6:00 p.m. **September 20** at the City Hall Council Chambers in **Bad Axe**; 6:00 p.m. **September 22** at the City Hall Council Chambers in **Jackson**; 6:30 p.m. **September 27** at the Traverse Area District Library in **Traverse City**; and 6:00 p.m. **September 29** at the Wayne County Community College District Eastern Campus Community Center in **Detroit**.

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mpsc or call toll-free 800/292-9555.

Community Access Center Provides TV Programs for Elders

The purpose of the Community Access Center in **Kalamazoo** is provide communications through public access television shows. The message is then delivered via a free one-way medium - a TV screen.

The Access Center now provides a health and wellness program called "Senior Exercises" for elders. This television series can be viewed at 8:30 a.m. Monday-Friday on Channel 20; 11:30 a.m. Sundays on Channel 21; 5:30 p.m. Sunday-Friday on Channel 21; and 9:00 a.m. Saturdays on Channel 21.

For more information, go to www.cactv.org or call 269/343-2211.

WEBSITES

www.goldviolin.com is the website of the gold violin which offers a variety of helpful gadgets for independent living including stylish walking sticks, thermometers and watches for the visually impaired, tools and easy grip items for those with arthritis, and safety and comfort items for the home.

www.mcadsv.org is the website of the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, a statewide membership organization of more than 70 domestic and sexual violence programs, and over 200 allied organizations and individuals. Also, you can call 517/347-7000

www.mymmap.org is the website of the Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) to provide information about Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare drug benefits, and long-term care insurance. Also, you can call 800/803-7174.

www.parkinsonsmi.org/home.htm is the website of the Michigan Parkinson Foundation that is dedicated to education, support and research, and a number of services and resources throughout the state for people living with Parkinson's disease. Also, you can call toll-free 800/852-9781

www.region7aaa.org is the website of the Region VII Area Agency on Aging (AAA-7) located in Bay City. It serves the counties of Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola. (This was inadvertently omitted from the last issue, dated August 15).

www.terranova.org is the website of Terra Nova Films to find hundreds of films and videos on aging and elderhood. Search by video title, topic, keyword or occupational field. Videos can be ordered online. Also you can call toll-free 800/779-8491.

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director

This biweekly electronic newsletter from the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** is distributed to anyone at no cost. Direct your request to be added to the e-mail distribution list to **David Dekker** at dekkerd@michigan.gov, and please include your name and telephone number as well as your e-mail address.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, and other resources described in [Resources for Aging](#) should not be interpreted as constituting OSA endorsement. This information is presented for

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Comments and suggestions are appreciated, and readers are invited to submit them to the editor at dekkerd@michigan.gov.

Readers also are invited to submit information to be considered for publication. Please send it by e-mail to dekkerd@michigan.gov or fax it to 517/373-4092. Or mail a hard copy to Resources for Aging, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, MI 48909-8176. Please include your name, organization/agency, address and telephone number.

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